and strengthening export capability.

A number of Programmes with the assistance of various international agencies have also been undertaken to improve the production technology and marketing etc., in the leather sector. The Government has also permitted duty free import of raw hides and skins, chrome tanned leather, crust leather, finished leather, to augment availability of leather.

In order to ensure quality of Indian Leather and Leather goods, the Bureau of Indian Standards is coordinating the activities of the ISO/TC-120/Leather/EN Standards/EEC regulation/harmonisation of Indian standards of footwear and other leather items with ISO standards.

(c) to (e) While some seizures of *leather hides and skims have been made* by our agencies at our borders, there arc no official reports of large-scale smuggling of leather hides and skins across neighbouring countries. However, with a view to check smuggling on these borders, our agencies have strengthened the vigilance and intelligence set up on our borders.

Controls in International Trade

733. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after 15 months of trade liberalisation policy announcement, plethora of controls continue to be in operation and the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports continue to operate and Director General International Trade alongwith supporting and associated officers; and

(b) the (details pf action contemplated to remove the controls?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Under the Current Export and Import Policy, all items may be exported or imported freely, except to the extent they are regulated by the two small Negative Lists for Imports/Exports and other provisions of the Exim Policy or any-other law for the time being in force.

The Director General of Foreign Trade and his. officers are enjoined with the responsibilities cast upon under Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 and the Exim Policy. Since the new Liberalised policy, there has been a significant shift in their responsibilities from 'Control' and 'Regulation' to Export Promotion and Development.

734. *(Transferred to 5th March, 1993.]*

Fall in Exports due to Ayodhya Incidents

735. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports are likely to fall by Rs. 1000/- crore this year due to Ayodhya issue and subsequent violence all over the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Although it is difficult to quantify the effects of disturbances due to Ayodhya issue on exports, these disturbances have adversely affected export performance.

Success of EPZ and EOU

736. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N.E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the concept of Export Processing Zone (EPZ) of Export Oriented Units (EOU) has failed to take off in India whereas it has been successful in China, Mexico, Mauritius and a dumber of other countries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to make them successful?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The; schemes for Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in India have evoked encouraging response and exports from this sector are steadily growing. However, some recent measures to make the EQU/EPZ scheme even more